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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4968

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

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AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USLO PEKING

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CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 6 SAIGON 6705

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT MAY 15-21, 1974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART I -- SUMMARY.

1. THE CURRENT INCREASE IN COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE ACTIVITY WAS FELT IN ALL FOUR MILITARY REGIONS. IN MR-1, ONLY QUANG TRI ESCAPED THE UPSURGE, AS THE NVA/VC HIT RESETTLEMENT SITES IN ALL THREE SOUTHERN PROVINCES. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT F BHTING WAS IN QUANG TIN, WHERE THE NVA EXPANDED ITS ASSAULT IN THE KY TRA AREA. IN MR-2, THE LULL IN KONTUM PROVINCE FOLLOWING THE FALL OF DAK PEK ON MAY 16 IS VIEWED AS TEMPORARY, AS THE NVA ARE EXPECTED SOON TO ATTACK THE TWO REMAINING ISOLATED GVN BASES IN THE PROVINCE. IN BINH DINH THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST EFFORT AGAINST PHU CAT, WHERE THE AIR BASE WAS SHELLLED SEVERAL TIMES AND FOUR OUTPOSTS OVERRUN. TO THE WEST, HOWEVER, RVN RANGERS DESTROYED AN NVA BATTALION. THERE WAS ALSO CONSIDERABLE ENEMY ACTIVITY DIRECTED AGAINST LOCS IN THE PROVINCE. IN MR-3, THE ARVN 18TH AND 5TH DIVISIONS FRUSTRATED MAJOR EFFORTS BY ELEMENTS OF THE NVA 7TH AND 9TH DIVISIONS TO CREATE SALIENTS INTO GVN TERRITORY AT BEN CAT AND PHU GIAO IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE. A SAPPER ATTACK AGAINST THE NHA BE POL STORAGE AREA DESTROYED TWO STORAGE TANKS. THE SHARP INCREASE IN ACTIVITY IN MR-4 WAS CENTERED IN THE SOUTHERN DELTA, WHERE NVA/VC ATTACKS RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF A NUMBER OF TERRITORIAL FORCES POSITIONS IN KIEN GIANG, CHUONG THIEN, PHONG DINH AND AN XUYEN. THE NORTHERN DELTA, INCLUDING DINH TUONG, WAS RELATIVELY QUIET. COMMUNIST MEDIA ARE AGAIN SEEKING TO JUSTIFY THE RECENT ATTACKS AS RETALIATORY. THE ICCS REMAINS STALEMATED OVER INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES, BUT THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS ARE CONTINUING TO CONDUCT OBSERVATIONS IN RESPONSE TO GVN COMPLAINTS. THERE HAS BEEN NO BREAK IN THE IMPASSE IN THE TPJMC AND THE "PRG" BOYCOTT OF THAT FORUM. THE POLEMICS CONTINUE IN THE FPJMT, WHICH AT PRESENT IS THE SOLE

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FORUM IN WHICH THE VIETNAMESE PARTIES ARE SEEING ONE ANOTHER.

PART II -- COMMUNIST MEDIA COMMENT.

2. COMMUNISTS PORTRAY ATTACKS AS "RETALIATION." VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PROPAGANDISTS HAVE LABELED RECENT NVA OFFENSIVE ACTIONS AT DAK PEK AND IN THE BEN CAT AREA AND THE SAPPER RAID AT THE NHA BE FUEL STORAGE SITE AS "PUNISHMENT" FOR ALLEGED RVNAF

CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. LIBERATION RADIO REPORTED THE FALL OF DAK
PEK ON MAY 17, CLAIMING THAT THE BASE HAD BEEN USED BY
THE GVN AS "A STAGING POSITION" FOR INCURSIONS INTO VC AREAS AND HAD
BEEN "COMPLETELY DESTROYED." IN BEN CAT, THE COMMUNIST ACTIONS
WERE TRIGGERED BY WHAT LIBERATION RADIO, IN A MAY 18 BROADCAST,
CALLED THE "ILLEGAL OCCUPATION" OF VC POSITIONS ALONG ROUTE 7
SINCE JANUARY 27, 1973. THE COMMUNISTS GAVE NO SPECIFIC
JUSTIFICATION FOR THE NHA BE INCIDENT, NOTING ONLY THAT IT WAS AIMED
AT "PUNISHING THE SAIGON ADMINISTRATION'S ACTS OF WAR AND SABOTAGE
OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT."

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3. HANOI BLASTS INDONESIAN COMMENTS ON ICCS. IN A MAY 16 STATEMENT THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CHARGED THAT THE INDONESIAN ICCS CONTINGENT HAD "NOT TAKEN A SINGLE POSITIVE ACT" TOWARD INSURING RESPECT FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND HAD, THROUGH ITS "UNILATERAL INVESTIGATIONS," ABETTED U.S. AND GVN EFFORTS "TO SLANDER" THE DRV AND VIET CONG. THE SPOKESMAN AVERRED THAT THE INDONESIAN "THREAT" TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ICCS WAS AN ATTEMPT "TO DECEIVE PUBLIC OPINION INTO BELIEVING THAT ALL SIGNATORIES" -- RATHER THAN ONLY THE U.S. AND GVN -- "HAVE VIOLATED THE AGREEMENT" AND DEMANDED THAT INDODEL JOIN WITH THE OTHER DELEGATIONS IN PREVENTING U.S. AND GVN "SABOTAGE" OF THE PEACE.

PART III -- ICCS.

4. DURING A SERIES OF STATEMENTS AND NOTES ISSUED BETWEEN MAY 18 AND 20, THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS AND THE TWO NON-COMMUNIST ICCS DELEGATIONS EXCHANGED RECRIMINATIONS OVER WHO WAS TO BLAME FOR THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY OVER THE INVESTIGATORY PROCESS IN THE ICCS. THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY, AND THE IRANIAN DELEGATION PRIVATELY, RAISED THE ISSUE AS TO WHETHER THEY WOULD CONTINUE THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ICCS. THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS DID NOT THREATEN TO QUIT THE ICCS, BUT CONTINUED TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE GVN "PRESS CAMPAIGN" AGAINST THEM, AND BOTH COMMUNIST AMBASSADORS WERE SUMMONED HOME ON CONSULTATION. THE USG CONTRIBUTED \$1.2 MILLION TO THE ICCS ON MAY 20, THE FIRST PAYMENT TO BE MADE BY ANY CONTRIBUTOR FOR THE ICCS BUDGET YEAR STARTING APRIL 1.

PART IV -- TPJMC.

5. THE "PRG" CONTINUES ITS BOYCOTT, WHILE STUBBORNLY REFUSING TO DISCUSS THE PRIVILEGES WHICH IT CLAIMS TO REGARD AS ITS RIGHT.

BY PORTRAYING EVEN SERVICES FREELY GIVEN BY THE GVN IN EXCESS
OF THOSE REQUIRED BY ANY WRITTEN AGREEMENT AS RIGHTS WHICH ARE
SUBJECT TO NEITHER MODIFICATION NOR NEGOTIATION, THE COMMUNISTS
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SEEK TO PRESSURE THE GVN INTO RESTORING THEM AS THEY WERE
PRIOR TO THE MOST RECENT WAVE OF NVA ATTACKS ON GVN
INSTALLATIONS. IN THEIR POSE AS THE AGGRIEVED INNOCENTS, THEY
HAVE EXTENDED THEIR NON-PARTICIPATION TO SOCIAL EVENTS: EVEN THEIR
ICCS ALLIES WERE UNABLE TO PREVAIL ON THEM TO ACCEPT INVITATIONS
TO A POLISH RECEPTION AT WHICH THE GVN WAS PREPARED TO FACILITATE
THEIR ATTENDANCE.

PART V -- FPJMT.

6. THE FPJMT REMAINS THE SOLE FORUM IN WHICH THE VIETNAMESE
PARTIES ARE SEEING ONE ANOTHER, AND ALL PARTIES ATTENDED THE
MEETINGS OF MAY 16 AND MAY 21. AT THE MAY 16 SESSION, THE GVN
OFFERED INFORMATION ON THREE MORE "PRG" MIAS, BRINGING TO 100
THE NUMBER OF MIA DOSSIERS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNISTS.
THE "PRG" REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE THREE DOSSIERS AND IT AND THE
DRV ALSO SPURNED A GVN INVITATION TO VISIT THE COMMUNIST
CEMETERY AT QUI NHON. ONCE THE COMMUNISTS REBUFFED THE
CONSTRUCTIVE GVN INITIATIVES, THE MEETING DEGENERATED INTO AN
EXCHANGE OF CHARGES OF CULPABILITY FOR VIET-NAM'S TWENTY YEARS
OF CIVIL STRIFE.

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LIMDIS

PART VI -- MR 1.

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 181 COMMUNIST
CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK. THIS IS THE SECOND HIGHEST
WEEKLY TOTAL FOR 1974 AND REFLECTS A HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITY
IN EVERY PROVINCE EXCEPT QUANG TRI. VNAF FLEW COMBAT AIR
STRIKES FOR THE SECOND WEEK IN SUCCESSION IN SUPPORT OF ARVN
EFFORTS TO RETAKE THE KY TRA AREA OF QUANG TIN. GVN CASUALTIES:
109 KIA, 347 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES: 230 KIA, NO RETURNEES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

FRIENDLY POSITIONS IN NORMALLY QUIET QUANG TRI WERE ATTACKED BY FIRE THREE TIMES. IN THE MOST SERIOUS OF THE INCIDENTS THE MARINE UNIT RETURNED THE FIRE AND LATER RECEIVED AN EXPLANATION FROM THE COMMUNIST SIDE THAT THE INITIAL FIRING OF B40 ROUNDS WAS A MISTAKE. IN THUA THIEN THE GVN REOCCUPIED THE EASTERN OF THREE KNOLLS OF HILL 300 ON MAY 17. NEIGHBORING HILL 273 REMAINS IN ENEMY HANDS. THESE HILLS COMMAND ACCESS TO PHU LOC FROM THE WEST AND THENCE THE SOUTHERN APPROACH TO HUE. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ENEMY ACTION WAS A GROUND ATTACK BY NVA UNITS AGAINST 3 PF PLATOONS 7 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF HUE. EIGHT WERE KIA, 12 WIA.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM THE WEEK SAW A SLIGHT INCREASE IN ATTACKS BY FIRE. ON MAY 17 THE ENEMY ENTERED THE LOC QUY RESETTLEMENT SITE IN DUC DUC AND BURNED 120 HOUSES. ON THE SAME DAY THE DANANG-HUE TRAIN WAS PARTIALLY DERAILED BY A MINE EXPLOSION WHICH DESTROYED THE ADVANCE CAR AND DAMAGED 30 METERS OF TRACK.

4. THE MOST IMPORTANT FIGHTING OCCURRED IN QUANG TIN. THE COMMUNIST ASSAULT ON THE KY TRA AREA OF TAM KY DISTRICT WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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BEGAN ON MAY 4 WAS ENLARGED BEGINNING MAY 17 TO INCLUDE PHUOC TIEN VILLAGE OF ADJOINING TIEN PHUOC DISTRICT. THERE THE ENEMY ATTACKED RF UNITS SECURING THE ROAD BETWEEN TIEN PHUOC DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND TAM KY CITY. ON MAY 18, 2 COMPANIES OF THE 1ST BN, 4TH REG, 2ND INF DIVISION REPORTEDLY ENGAGED STRONG NVA/VC FORCES AND RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST. TOTAL GVN LOSSES FOR THE 17TH AND 18TH OF MAY INCLUDED: 12 KIA, 30 WIA, THE TWO ABOVE-MENTIONED COMPANIES MIA, 38 MIA OF THE 132 RF BN AND 7 MIA FROM THE 116 RF BN. ON MAY 19 THERE WERE FURTHER ENEMY ATTACKS. THIS INCREASED PRESSURE HAS CAUSED THE GVN FORCES, COMMANDED BY THE 2ND DIVISION'S BGEN TRAN VAN NHUT, TO WITHDRAW AND REGROUP. ENEMY FORCES REPORTEDLY CONSIST OF 5 BATTALIONS. THE KY TRA AREA IS CONSIDERED TO BE OF INCREASED VALUE TO THE COMMUNISTS BECAUSE OF NEW ROADS THEY HAVE CONSTRUCTED TO THE WEST. IN ADDITION, PART OF THE CONTESTED AREA CONSISTS OF HIGH GROUND FOUR KILOMETERS FROM Q.L. 1, FROM WHICH THE ENEMY COULD EASILY FIRE ON TRAFFIC MOVING BETWEEN QUANG NGAI AND QUANG TIN.

5. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, THE ENEMY ROCKETED THE PROVINCE SEAT AIRFIELD TWICE AND TAM KY CITY ITSELF ONCE.

6. IN QUANG NGAI MILITARY ACTIVITY RETURNED TO A HIGH LEVEL. ON MAY 14 A BRIDGE ON Q.L. 1 IN MO DUC DISTRICT WAS 70 PERCENT DESTROYED. DONG LO AND PHUOC HOA HAMLETS IN EASTERN BINH SON

DISTRICT WERE TARGETS OF THE COMMUNISTS' CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GVN'S RETURN-TO-VILLAGE AND RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS. AN ATTACK ON DONG LO RESULTED IN 10 CIVILIANS KILLED AND 15 WOUNDED. A VC ATTACK ON PHUOC HOA LEFT TWO CIVILIANS DEAD AND 200 HOUSES DESTROYED.

7. THE LARGEST BATTLE DURING THE WEEK WAS FOUGHT TWO KILOMETERS WEST OF MO DUC DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, WHERE NVA ATTACKED POSITIONS OF THE 37TH RANGER BN ON MAY 18. FORTY-TWO NVA WERE REPORTED KILLED, AND ONE CAPTURED, WHO BELONGED TO THE NVA 52ND BRIGADE. THE GVN LOST 4 KIA AND 12 WOUNDED. THE VC LEFT 15 ASSORTED WEAPONS ON THE FIELD IN THIS ENCOUNTER.

8. BINH SON DISTRICT TOWN WAS MORTARED ONCE DURING THE WEEK AND 122MM ROCKETS LANDED NEAR THE QUANG NGAI AIRFIELD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. THE 70TH RANGER BN, OPERATING FROM GIA VUC, KILLED CONFIDENTIAL

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17 NVA/VC AND CAPTURED 6 WEAPONS, A QUANTITY OF AMMUNITION, AND THREE TONS OF RICE DURING A PATROL SOUTHWEST OF THEIR BASE ON MAY 15.

9. ICCS:

IN ICCS REGION I THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS UNDERTOOK AN OBSERVATION OF THE SITE OF THE ENEMY ATTACK AGAINST THE 3 PF PLATOONS IN THUA THIEN. IN ICCS REGION II THE INDONESIANS AT CHU LAI CONDUCTED 3 OBSERVATIONS AND WERE JOINED BY THE IRANIANS IN A FOURTH. BOTH TEAMS AT TAM KY CONDUCTED A FIFTH OBSERVATION, ALL ON THE BASIS OF GVN COMPLAINTS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 6 SAIGON 6705

LIMDIS

PART VII -- MR 2

1. STATISTICAL SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS DECLINED LAST WEEK FOLLOWING THE FALL OF DAK PEK, A SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN BINH DINH (FROM 29 TO 75) RAISED THE TOTAL FOR THE MR TO 190 AS COMPARED WITH 138 LAST WEEK. THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS AFTER BINH DINH WERE REPORTED IN PLEIKU (36), AND KONTUM (35). OTHER INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN PHU YEN (19), BINH THUAN (10),

QUANG DUC (8), TUYEN DUC (3), KHANH HOA (2), NINH THUAN AND LAM DONG (ONE EACH). RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 77 KIA, 243 WIA, AND 1 MIA; COMMUNIST CASUALTIES AS 327 KIA AND 3 CIA. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE STILL UNDETERMINED RANGER CASUALTIES AT DAK PEK. SHARPLY INCREASED AIR STRIKES WERE REPORTED IN BINH DINH (120) AND KONTUM (97). OTHER AIR STRIKES WERE CONDUCTED IN PLEIKU (42) AND BINH THUAN (4).

2. KONTUM/LEIKU: INTENSE ACTIVITY AROUND DAK PEK FROM MAY 14 TO 16, INCLUDING A SERIES OF ARTILLERY AND MORTAR ATTACKS, CULMINATED IN A GROUND ASSAULT ON MAY 16 BY AN ESTIMATED NVA REGIMENT PLUS, WHICH PUSHED THE BATTALION-SIZE RANGER GARRISON OUT OF THE ISOLATED OUTPOST. SURVIVORS OF DAK PEK GARRISON ARE BELIEVED TO BE RETREATING TOWARD MANG BUK, ANOTHER ISOLATED GVN OUTPOST IN NORTHERN KONTUM. HOWEVER, NO CONTACT WITH THEM HAS BEEN REPORTED AND, SINCE MAY 16 THE PROVINCE HAS ENJOYED A LOW LEVEL OF ACTIVITY. REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS ANTICIPATES FURTHER ATTACKS ON THE REMAINING TWO OUTPOSTS IN KONTUM; MANG BUK AND CHUONG NGHIA. IN PLEIKU, ACTION AROUND THANH AN DISTRICT TOWN AND FSB 711 SLACKENED OFF TOWARD THE END OF THE WEEK. FOLLOWING THE SHELLING OF THE 44TH REGT HQS AT THE DAK TO SUB-SECTOR JUST NORTH OF THE CHU PAO PASS, HIGHWAY 14, BETWEEN PLEIKU AND KONTUM, WAS CLOSED BY THE GVN ON THE MORNING OF MAY 14 BUT WAS REOPENED LATER THE SAME DAY.

3. BINH DINH/PHU YEN: THE NUMBER OF REPORTED INCIDENTS IN BINH DINH ROSE TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE LAST OCTOBER WITH MOST OF THE INCREASE COMING AROUND MAY 17-18. THE CENTER OF ACTION
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MOVED SOUTH INTO BINH KHE AND PHU CAT DISTRICTS FROM ITS PREVIOUS CONCENTRATION IN THE NORTHERN THREE DISTRICTS WITH SUCCESSFUL ENEMY GROUND ATTACKS ON FOUR PF OUTPOSTS TO THE WEST OF PHU CAT AIR BASE ON MAY 17. THE BASE ITSELF REPORTEDLY RECEIVED SOME 40 ROUNDS IN ROCKET ATTACKS ON FOUR CONSECUTIVE DAYS FROM MAY 17 TO MAY 20. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 12 VNAF KIA, 32 VNAF AND 3 CIVILIANS WIA. ELEMENTS OF THE 43RD BATTALION, 4TH RANGER GROUP, MOVED FROM THE PHU MY AREA AND ON MAY 20, ENGAGED THE THIRD BATTALION, SECOND REGIMENT, THIRD NVA DIVISION IN BINH KHE DISTRICT WEST OF THE AIR BASE. THE RANGERS REPORTED 150 NVA KIA. CAPTURED EQUIPMENT INCLUDED TWO 50 CAL. AA GUNS, ROCKET AND MORTAR LAUNCHERS, OVER 40 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION OF ALL TYPES INCLUDING ROCKETS. RANGER LOSSES HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS "ACCEPTABLE". IN OTHER ACTIONS IN BINH DINH, TWO BRIDGES ON HIGHWAY 1 AT BS 904136 AND BS 903123 WERE REPORTED 100 PERCENT DESTROYED IN MINING INCIDENTS ON MAY 20. THE HIGHWAY WAS STILL BLOCKED AT 0800 MAY 21. THE MINING OF A CULVERT ON HIGHWAY 19, ALSO ON

MAY 20, BLOCKED THE HIGHWAY FOR ABOUT SEVEN HOURS, BUT THE ROAD HAS NOW BEEN REOPENED. A BATTALION OF THE ARVN 47TH REGIMENT HAS MOVED FROM PLEIKU INTO BINH KHE DISTRICT TO REINFORCE PROVINCIAL

UNITS AND HELP SECURE HIGHWAY 19.

4. OTHER AREAS: THE BINH THUAN PROV REP REPORTS THAT A MULTI RF BATTALION OPERATION, WITH NAVAL AND AIR SUPPORT, WAS CONDUCTED ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN HAI LONG AND DOA DA DISTRICTS, BINH THUAN FROM MAY 13-16. THE OPERATION INFLICTED 13 VC KIA AND 1 CIA. GVN FORCES REPORTEDLY CAPTURED SUBSTANTIAL FOOD SUPPLIES INCLUDING 900 KILOS OF RICE, FIVE TONS OF MANIOC AND SWEET POTATOES, 1,350KILOS OF PEANUTS AND RED BEANS, AND DESTROYED A BATTALION-IZED BASE CAMP. IN THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE, NHA TRANG AIR BASE RECEIVED FOUR ROCKET ROUNDS ON THE MORNING OF MAY 18. NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE WAS REPORTED.

5. ICCS: INDONESIAN ICCS DELEGATES WERE REPORTED FIRED ON WHILE CONDUCTING A UNILATERAL INVESTIGATION MAY 15 AT THE DAK TO SUB-SECTOR HQ SOUTH OF KONTUM CITY. OTHER DELEGATIONS POINT TO THE LACK OF SECURITY AS A REASON NOT TO INVESTIGATE THE MAY 14 ATTACK ON THE HQ. THE PHU YEN PROV REP REPORTS SOME DEVELOPING IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN ILL-FEELING TOWARDS THE TWO COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS' RECENT INACTIVITY. A PARTICULAR CASE IN POINT IS THE COMMUNIST

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REFUSAL TO INVESTIGATE A RECENT ATTACK ON AN ICCS
PA&E TRUCK.

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USLO PEKING
RUHQHQAWZCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
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PART VVIII -- MR 3.

1. THE LULL IN MR3 WAS BROKEN MAY 16 WHEN NVA FORCES STRUCK IN TWO AREAS OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE. SAPPERS, ON MAY 19, SCORED THEIR SECOND SUCCESS AGAINST POL STORAGE AT NHA BE, BUT ON A FAR SMALLER SCALE THAN LAST DECEMBER.

2. ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH NVA DIV ATTACKED WITH ARMOR AND OVERRAN RF POSITIONS AT RACH BAP, OUTPOST 82, AND AN DIEN HAMLET IN BEN CAT DISTRICT WHILE ELEMENTS OF THE 7TH NVA DIV STRUCK ALONG ROUTE 1A IN PHU GIAO DISTRICT WITH THE PRIMARY TARGET OF SONG BE BRIDGE ABOUT 5 KMS SOUTH OF PHU GIAO DISTRICT TOWN. THESE COMMUNIST MOVES WERE APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO CUT OFF PHU GIAO DISTRICT AND ESTABLISH DEEP SALIENTS IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE BOTH EAST AND WEST OF ROUTE 13. THESE AIMS APPEAR TO

BE FRUSTRATED. ELEMENTS OF THE 5TH ARVN DIV SUPPORTED BY THE 315TH ARMORED TASK FORCE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE COMMUNIST THRUST IN PHU GIAO DISTRICT WHILE ELEMENTS FROM THE 18TH ARVN DIV AND THE 318TH ARMORED TASK FORCE ARE PREPARING TO COUNTER-ATTACK TO REGAIN LOST POSITIONS IN BEN CAT.

3. REFLECTING THE INCREASED FIGHTING, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MILITARY INCIDENTS REPORTED BY MR3 HQ REACHED 248 COMPARED WITH 188 IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK. BINH DUONG, BEARING THE BRUNT OF THE MILITARY ACTIVITY, LED IN NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WITH A TOTAL OF 105. NEIGHBORING PROVINCES TRAILED FAR BEHIND WITH HAU NGHIA REGISTERING NEXT WITH 31 AND LONG KHANH WITH 29. THERE WERE 55 GROUND ATTACKS (COMPARED TO 33 IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK), 107 ATTACKS BY FIRE (65 LAST WEEK) AND 9 COMBINED ABF AND GROUND CONTACTS. MININGS TOTALED 44 AND THERE WERE 33 MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS INCLUDING ONE SAPPER PENETRATION, 2 SAPPER ATTACKS, 1 TRUCK SEIZURE AND 16 SMALL ARM HARASSMENTS. GVN ARTILLERY FIRE DURING THIS PERIOD MORE THAN DOUBLED WITH A TOTAL OF 23,152 RDS (COMPARED WITH 9259 THE PREVIOUS WEEK). VNAF FLEW 199 SORTIES IN THIS REPORTING PERIOD, DURING WHICH ONE A-1 AND ONE HELICOPTER WERE DAMAGED BUT NO AIRCRAFT WERE LOST DESPITE HEAVY ENEMY

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AA FIRE.

4. MR3 RECORDED GROUND FORCE CASUALTIES FOR THE GVN OF 63 KIA, 260 WIA (INCLUDING 43 CIVILIANS) AND 18 MIA IN CONTRAST TO NVA/VC LOSSES OF 86 KIA AND 4 CIA. VNAF ACTIONS IN MR3 ACCOUNTED FOR A REPORTED 282 NVA/VC KBA. MR3 REPORTS THAT CASUALTY STATISTICS WILL BE CONSIDERABLY REVISED AS THE SITUATION CLARIFIES IN THE COMING WEEK AND MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED. THERE WAS ONE RALLIER; 12 RVNAF ESCAPED COMMUNIST CAPTURE AND RETURNED TO GVN LINES. ONE T-54 TANK WAS CONFIRMED DESTROYED AND ANOTHER DAMAGED.

5. ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION COMMUNISTS SCORED A SUCCESS WHEN SAPPERS AGAIN PENETRATED THE NHA BE POL STORAGE AREA AND DESTROYED TWO GASOLINE TANKS. FORTUNATELY ONE TANK WAS EMPTY AND THE SECOND TANK, BEING ABOUT ONE-THIRD FULL, SUFFERED A LOSS OF ALMOST ONE MILLION LITERS OF GASOLINE. A PLASTIC CHARGE HAD BEEN ATTACHED TO A THIRD TANK CONTAINING ABOUT 2 MILLION LITERS OF FUEL BUT NO DETONATOR WAS PUT IN PLACE, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE GUARDS DETECTED THE SAPPERS TOO SOON. ONE SAPPER WAS KILLED.

6. COMMUNIST FORCES PUMPED 15 ROCKETS INTO THE THANH TUY HA AMMO DUMP MAY 20 BUT LUCKILY NO STORAGE CELLARS WERE HIT AND THERE WAS ONLY MONOR DAMAGE.

7. IN NORMALLY PEACEFUL BINH TUY PROVINCE, COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY SHELLED AN RF POSITION AT TRA TAN HAMLET, HOAI DUC DISTRICT

AND WERE ABLE TO AMBUSH AN RF FORCE ON THEIR WAY TO RELIEVE THE HAMLET, INFLECTING CASUALTIES ON THE GVN OF 10 KIA, 15 WIA AND 6 MIA WHILE SUFFERING HEAVY LOSSES OF 20 KIA.

8. IN CU CHI DISTRICT, HAU NGHIA, COMMUNISTS STEPPED UP SHELLING OF THE TRUNG LAP BASE CAMP AND OTHER ARVNAF POSITIONS IN THE VICINITY OF CU CHI DISTRICT TOWN.

9. ICCS. ACCORDING TO THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION, AN "OBSERVATION" WAS CARRIED OUT MAY 18 OF THE SINKING OF TWO FISHING BOATS AT VUNG TAU. THE INDONESIANS ARE PREPARED TO CONDUCT OBSERVATIONS AT RACH BAP AND BASE 82 OUTPOSTS IN BEN CAT DISTRICT OF BINH DUONG WHEN THE MILITARY SITUATION PERMITS. ON MAY 15 WHEN A CROWD OF SOME 4,000 BIEN HOA SCHOOL CHILDREN CONGREGATED AT
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ICCS REGION V HQS TO PRESENT A PETITION PROTESTING THE SONG PHU INCIDENT, THEY WERE RECEIVED BY THE POLISH CHAIRMAN ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE BY THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS. SEPARATELY, THE INDONESIANS MADE A CASH CONTRIBUTION FOR THE FAMILIES OF STUDENTS KILLED AT SONG PHU IN MR4. ELSEWHERE, AT LAM SON, A PETITION REGARDING SONG PHU WAS RECEIVED BY THE HUNGARIANS WHO HAD THE CHAIR AT THAT SUB-REGIONAL SITE.

PART IX -- MR 4.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL ACTIVITY: MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED SHAPRLY IN THE DELTA, JUST AS IT HAS AT MID-MONTH FOR MANY MONTHS PAST. A CORPS-LEVEL MEETING MAY 14 CONSIDERED HOW BETTER TO USE TERRITORIAL FORCES TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION. THE HIGH POINT OF THE WEEK CAME MAY 17 WHEN 103 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED. ACTIVITY WAS PARTICULARLY INTENSE IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE AND NEIGHBORING AREAS OF PHONG DINH AND KIEN GIANG PROVINCES. ALTHOUGH NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN THE NORTHERN DELTA GENERALLY INCREASED, DINH TUONG PROVINCE EXPERIENCED A SLIGHT DECREASE. CORPS REPORTS 479 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (230 LAST WEEK)INCLUDING 64 GROUND ATTACKS (19),

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NEA-06 PM-03 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 IO-03 DPW-01

OMB-01 AID-10 L-02 PA-01 USIA-04 SP-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00

ORM-01 SR-02 DRC-01 /093 W

----- 124106

R 221045Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4973

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

308 ABF'S (132), 91 HARASSMENTS (68), 5 SABOTAGE ACTS 11

TERORIST INCIDENTS (5). GVN LOSSES WERE REPORTED AS 163 KIA

(134 LAST WEEK), 807 WIA (585), 86 MIA (15) AND 8 CREW-SERVED (1) AND 234 INDIVIDUAL (36) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 565 VC/NVA KIA (770 LAST WEEK), 20 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (34), AND 20 CREW-SERVED (25) AND 182 INDIVIDUAL (199) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG DECREASED SLIGHTLY WITH FAR FEWER ATTACKS BY FIRE THAN LAST WEEK. A VC ATTACK AGAINST A PSDF ELEMENT ON HIGHWAY 4 IN MY THANH (V), CAI BE (D) RESULTED IN AN ASSISTANT HAMLET CHIEF AND 10 PSDF MIA. THE 512 RF BATTALION WAS ATTACKED IN THANH HUNG (V), GIAO DUC (D) BUT KILLED 10 VC. LATER THAT MORNING, THE SAME UNIT DISCOVERED 30 VC KIA IN AN AREA NEARBY. KIEN PHONG PROVINCE REPORTS DECREASED ACTIVITY, ALTHOUGH RENEWED ACTION OCCURRED ALONG INFILTRATION ROUTE 1A IN THE CAI CAI AREA OF HONG NGU DISTRICT. TWO OUTPOSTS IN THE AREA WERE SUBJECT TO ABF IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT BY 207TH NVA REGIMENT TO REOPEN ROUTE 1A. ROUTE 30 WAS MINED AT AN HOA (H), AND BINH (V), HONG NGU (D) ON MAY 16, BUT TRAFFIC WAS INTERRUPTED ONLY BRIEFLY. OF 15 OUTPOSTS OVERRUN OR ABANDONED SINCE APRIL 19, NINE HAVE NOW BEEN RETAKEN. ACTIVITY IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE INCREASED DUE TO AN INCREASE IN GVN OPERATIONS. TWO SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS OCCURRED IN NORTHERN AN PHU DISTRICT RESULTING IN 19 VC/NVA KILLED AND TWO RF KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED. WE HAVE REPORTED KIEN TUONG MILITARY SITUATION BY SEPTTEL (CAN TO 172).

(C) KIEN GIANG PROVINCE: ACTIVITY INCREASED SHAPRLY TO LEVELS COMMON BEFORE LAST WEEK'S LULL. SIX VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS WERE SHELLED OR ATTACKED. MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT WAS OVERRUN OF DUC PHUONG VILLAGE, KIEN LUONG DISTRICT. INITIAL REPORTS LIST 12 KILLED INCLUDING A DISTRICT OFFICIAL, A VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBER, THREE POLICEMEN AND THE SUB-SUBSECTOR COMMANDER. SOME OF THOSE KILLED WERE HACKED TO DEATH IN BED, LEADING OFFICIALS TO SUSPECT A TRAITOR WAS INVOLVED. GVN FORCES ABANDONED THOI AN VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS (KIEN BINH DISTRICT) AFTER A THREE-DAY VC/NVA SEIGE. 13 PF FROM THE VILLAGE ARE STILL LISTED AS MISSING. IN KIEN AN DISTRICT, DONG YEN VILLAGE
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HEADQUARTERS AND THE ADJOINING NAVAL BASE RECEIVED 50 ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR, WHILE NEIGHBORING AN PHUOC VILLAGE (KIEN THANH DISTRICT) RECIEVED MORTAR AND MACHINE GUN FIRE IN THE VICINITY OF THE MARKET PLACE AND VILLAGE OFFICE DURING A DAYLIGHT ATTACK.

(D) CENTRAL DELTA: KIEN HOA REPORTS INCREASED ACTIVITY, WITH A SLIGHT INCREASE IN ABF AND HARASSMENT FIRE INTO GVN OUTPOSTS. SECTOR S-2 SOURCES REPORT THAT THE VC E-2 REGIMENT HAS SCATTERED THROUGH THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST OF NEW PHUOC HUNG DISTRICT, BUT THIS UNIT HAS NOT YET MADE IT'S PRESENCE FELT. A SNIPING INCIDENT OCCURRED ON ROUTE 30 BETWEEN MO CAY AND HUONG MY DISTRICT TOWNS. TWO MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE KILLED BY SMALL-ARMS FIRE IN THE I Q

SENT. IN VINH BINH PROVINCE, VC/NVA SHELLINGS INCREASED BUT GVN CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT. IN ONE SIGNIFICANT ENGAGEMENT, THE

404 RF GOTTQ ION KILLED 15 VC WHILE SUFFERING NO CASUALTIES IN LONG HUU (V), LONG TOAN (D). NEIGHBORING VINH LONG PROVINCE REMAINED FAIRLY QUIET, THOUGH THE NUMBER OF MINOR INCIDENTS ROSE. THE 746 RF COMPANY HAD TWO CONTACTS WHICH RESULTED IN 5 VC KIA AND 5 RF KIA AND 11 WIA. TRA ON DISTRICT TOWN RECEIVED THREE ROUNDS OF 82MM. SA DEC PROVINCE WAS QUIET WITH ONLY A FEW MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED. IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, ONE OUTPOST WAS OVERRUN AND ANOTHER ABANDONED ALONG THE SAINTENOY CANAL IN PHUNG HIEP DISTRICT. VC/NVA NOW CONTROL VIRTUALLY ALL OF PHUNG HIEP EXCEPT A CORRIDOR ALONG HIGHWAY 4 AND THE AREAS ON EITHER SIDE OF LAI HIEU CANAL FROM THE DISTRICT TOWN ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE WAY TO THE CHUONG THIEN BORDER. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO TARGET CAU TRANG BRIDGE IN HIGHWAY 4 AT SAINTENOY CANAL IN AN EFFORT TO CUT THE HIGHWAY AND CONTROL THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE CANAL. REFUGEE POPULATION IN THE DISTRICT, WHICH HAD BEEN FALLING, HAS NOW RISEN FROM 3,000 TO ABOUT 5,000.

(E) SOUTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE INCREASED SHARPLY, AND SECTOR S-2 BELIEVES ALL OF THE NVA D-1 INFANTRY REGIMENT HAS MOVED BACK TO THE PROVINCE. FOUR OUTPOSTS MANNED BY THE 407 RF BATTALION (TDY FROM PHONG DINH) AROUND THE SOUTHERN END OF LAI HIEU CANAL WERE OVERRUN MAY 16 AND INITIAL REPORTS LIST APPROXIMATELY 100 RF KILLED, WOUNDED, AND MISSING. VC/NVA TROOP BUILD-UP IN LONG MY AND KIEN HUNG DISTRICTS PROMPTED 21ST ARVN DIVISION TO SEND ELEMENTS OF THE 31ST REGIMENT INTO KIEN THIEN TO THWART VC/NVA MOVE IN SOUTHERN CHUONG THIEN. BY THE END OF THE WEEK, HOWEVER, VC/NVA HAD ATTACKED AND OVERRUN THUY LIEU VILLAGE, KIEN HUNG (D). TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 33RD REGIMENT/21ST ARVN DIVISION
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WERE SENT TO THE VILLAGE, BUT HAVE NOT REACHED IT. KIEN THIEN, KIEN HUNG AND HUNG LONG DISTRICT TOWNS WERE ALL SHELLED, AND VI THANH RECEIVED TWO ROUNDS OF 107MM. IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, THREE OB'S ALONG ROUTE 12 SW OF CA MAU WERE OVERRUN AND HAVE NOT BEEN RE-OCCUPIED. THESE LOSSES AND THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED OVERRUN OF HUNG MY VILLAGE WILL WEAKEN THE DEFENSIVE BUFFER ZONE SOUTH OF CA MAU UNLESS GVN PRESENCE IS RE-ESTABLISHED IN THE AREA. IN SONG ONG DOC DISTRICT, ONE OB WAS OVERRUN AND ANOTHER ABANDONED IN AN APPARENT VC/NVA EFFORT TO WIDEN CONTROL OF AN INFILTRATION ROUTE SOUTH THROUGH HAI YEN TO NAM CAN DISTRICT. ONE BATTALION OF THE 31ST REGIMENT WAS AIRLIFTED TO THE AREA AS A REACTION FORCE. BAC LIEU PROVINCE REPORTS INCREASED ACTIVITY WITH HALF OF VC/NVA - INITIATED INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN VINH CHAU DISTRICT. ONE OB WAS OVERRUN AND FOUR OTHERS ABANDONED. A GROUND ATTACK AGAINST LAM DOI HAMLET OFFICE, PHONG THANH (V), GIA RAI (D) RESULTED IN EIGHT GVN CASUALTIES. BA XUYEN ALSO EXPERIENCED INCREASED ACTIVITY, PARTICULARLY IN NGA NAM AND THUAN HOA DISTRICTS, ALTHOUGH ACTIVITY DECREASED IN NORTHERN KE SACH DISTRICT. SEVERAL OB'S NEAR THUAN HOA DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS WERE SUBJECT TO ABF AND HARASSMENTS, AND ONE ROUND OF 82MM IMPACTED IN THE HEADQUARTERS ITSELF.

2. GVN ACTIVITIES: CORPS COMMANDER LTG NGHI MAY 14 MET WITH HIS PROVINCE CHIEFS AND OTHER SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS TO CONSIDER WAYS TO UPGRADE AND IMPROVE THE TERRITORIAL FORCES. NGHI ORDERED A PLAN SUBMITTED TO HIM BY MAY 22, WHICH WE HAVE LEARNED WILL INCLUDE (A) A MINIMUM OF 25 SOLDIERS PER OUTPOST, ALL OTHERS TO BE ABANDONED, (W) DISBANDING OF MOST WACHTOWERS IN C, D, AND E HAMLETS, AND (E) A SEVERE CRACKDOWN ON UNIT COMMANDERS WHO PERMIT GHOST OR FLOWER SOLDIERS OR WHO ACCEPT PAYOFFS FROM SUBORDINATES FOR ANY OTHER REASON. WHEN JGS APPROVES THE PLAN, NGHI WILL REPORTEDLY GIVE HIS OFFICERS THREE MONTHS TO IMPLEMENT IT.
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